



Wednesday, February 3, 2010

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News Advisory

Teens Honored for Efforts to Prevent Dating Violence

WHAT: The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) and Utah Dating Violence Task Force will host a ceremony to announce the winners of the Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week art contest and recognize outstanding efforts by local high schools, community organizations, and individuals to prevent dating violence.

The contest invited 7th-12th grade students from across Utah to create a visual art project, YouTube video, or written work that educates teens about the impact dating violence has on their communities. Each winner will receive a plaque and a visual arts, film production, or writing class valued at \$190-\$300.

WHY: Dating violence is a growing problem in Utah. Nearly 11% of 9th-12th graders in Utah reported being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend last year.

WHO: Speakers include:

- Alex Cespedes, past contest winner
- Caity Swanagan, survivor of a violent dating relationship
- Grand prize winners of the contest

WHEN: Thursday, February 4, 2010
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m

Speakers will be available for interviews after the awards ceremony. Winning entries will also be on display.

WHERE: Utah State Capitol
Board Room, second floor Rotunda, East end
Salt Lake City, UT

NOTE: Parking available in the East visitor parking lot.

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